

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Chief Petruch expressed condolences for the passing of Bob Horan. Mr. Horan was one of the original police officers to join the Merrillville Police Department.

Mrs. Barron introduced Matt Glaros of Meyers & Glaros Group. Mr. Glaros presented information regarding a recommendation for 2018 Employee Benefits. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bushemi presented detailed information regarding the sponsorship of State Legislation and General Assembly to improve safety for children and adults at daycare facilities. Mr. Bushemi commented that he will keep the Town Council informed as the development progresses.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 14, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2017. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Information was presented to accept the contract agreement with First Group Engineering for Mill and Resurfacing on Grand Blvd. – 2018 Community Crossing Grant Project. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve with the condition not to exceed \$41,000. The motion including condition was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Brief discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the Merrillville Police department take charge of EMA. Mr. Spann seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich reminded everyone that the Santa Procession will be Friday, December 1, 2017 at 6 p.m. The procession will start at Merrillville Intermediate School and travel to the Pruzin Park. Festivities include a lighting ceremony, Santa, and serving of hot chocolate, and cookies. Ms. Orlich provided information regarding a revenue trend for 2017 and discussed the specific details. Ms. LaMarca commented on the upcoming ordinance related to an increase for the rental fees.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Barron had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway spoke about the location at 122 W 55th Ave and the possibility of donating the property to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity declined the donation due to a covenant related to restrictions for the type of house that can be built within the Subdivision. President Hardaway said a decision was made to put the property up for sale at this time.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-27: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Casino fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-28: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the Parks Non-Reverting Program Fees for the Year 2018. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-29: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana establishing fees for the release of liens related to town costs incurred to remedy certain property conditions. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion with discussion. Discussion followed related to the details for the fees involved with the process. There was no further discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-25: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, depleting monies of the 2017 budget within the General fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 17-26: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the General fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 17-32: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the Fire and Hazmat fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 17-33: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the General fund. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Martin Schreibak and Brian McShane
Owner: 45th Street Properties, LLC
Request: Variance of use
Purpose: Proposed self-storage units and future climate controlled storage.
Location: 240 West 79th Avenue
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case #: Z41UV-1017
Conditions: For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve including conditions. Ms. LaMarca seconded the motion including conditions. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

President Hardaway thanked Councilman Pettit, Councilman Spann and Clerk Treasurer Guernsey for attending the Veterans Day program. President Hardaway also thanked Sheila Shine and Stacy Gaza for their assistance with the event.

Mr. Pettit discussed the review for the upcoming appointments of the Committees, including Plan Commission, Police Commission, Stormwater, and BZA due for the year 2018. President Hardaway requested Mr. Spires to proceed with the process in an effort to have the information advertised by week end and anticipate the decisions to be made in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, Nov. 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Resource Committee meeting, November 16, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Town Hall Offices Closed, November 23rd & 24th, 2017 observance of Thanksgiving. (Except Emergency Services)

President Hardaway wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Town Council meeting, November 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Saint Sava Christmas Dinner for foster children, December 15, 2017 from 5-9 p.m.

Annual Crossroads Regional Chamber Gala, November 18, 2017 at 6 p.m. at Avalon Manor.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Pettit.